

# "Keeping In Touch"

Quarterly Newsletter by/for Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game  
Retirees/Families and Interested Former Employees

January 2011, Vol. 7, No. 1

## Dates to Remember

**Retiree Luncheon  
Schedule  
Golden Corral  
on Emerald in Boise  
11:30 a.m.**

**2011  
January 13  
March 10  
May 12  
July 14  
September 8  
November 10**

**Mark Your Calendars!**

## Welcome New Retirees!

**Larry Jindrich**, Dist. Conservation Officer in McCall, retired October 30, 2010, after 26 years of service. **John Wray**, Utility Craftsman with the Engineering Bureau, is retiring January 22, 2011, after 10 years of service.

We also welcome **Wilma Gnemi**, daughter of Bill Gnemi who worked the Jerome Game Farm for so many years and had such wonderful gardens. (Bill passed away July 18, 2006, at the age of 94.) Wilma was the guest of honor at this year's annual Wild Game Feed.

## It's A New Year!

Well, it's another year and we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! The annual Christmas Wild Game Feed was another big success this year. Thanks to all of you who made it possible.

Now for the not-so-good news. Since this is the year we are supposed to have the Retiree Reunion, the present committee members have discussed it and have decided to cancel it for this year. As you know, **Ralph Pehrson** was our Committee Chairman and he and his wife Edie handled most of the duties of putting it together. Our current committee members have agreed that we can no longer take on additional jobs due to personal responsibilities (and we are getting "older"). Also, we lost the caterer who provided the barbecues because he sold out and the current owner no longer does barbecues.

Now, if someone would like to arrange for a reunion, the present Committee members will be happy to help out as we did before. In fact, if someone in another region would care to take on the job, it would give us Treasure Valley people a chance to travel elsewhere. But as the situation stands now, there will be no reunion. Let us know what you think and if you would like to take over the Reunion duties, please let us know.

## Your Generosity Is Overwhelming!

Thank you so much! We especially want to thank **Brad and Julie Christensen**, **Chuck Jensen** and **Milt and Beverly Williams** for your very generous donations. (And thank you, Milt and Beverly for the special

Christmas present! You know what I mean!) And, a great big thanks to **Martin and Margaret Luther** for their very, very generous donation. It alone will keep us in business for quite some time!

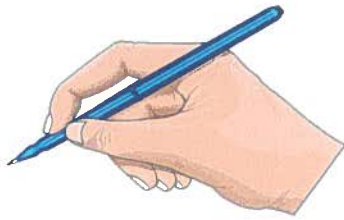
## ODFW Biologist Dies in Wreck

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Tamara "Tami" Wagner, 52, died October 25, 2010 in a multi-car crash near Toledo, Oregon. Tami was the wife of David Wagner who was an IDFG employee in the 1980's in Region 6 and Tami was a temporary.

According to published reports, Tami was driving on Highway 20 near the Toledo State Airport when she was involved in a freakish chain-reaction car crash that ended when a Freightliner truck pulling an empty-pole trailer flipped on its side and collided with Tami's state-owned Department of Fish and Wildlife 2006 Chevy truck. Tami died at the scene.

She is survived by her husband, David; daughter Hilary; son Ryan and many others. Tami was well loved by all and she will be missed.





**"Keeping in Touch,"**  
a newsletter for  
**IDFG Retirees/Families**  
and  
**Interested Former**  
**Employees is published**  
**quarterly by the IDFG**  
**Retiree Committee.**

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**All donations should be sent**  
**to the above address.**

## **Old Senile Man Still Trying to Run**

*By Bill Platts*

I do not know how many thousand athletes showed up to compete at the 2010 USA Track and Field Masters National Championships held at Sacramento State University, but the large complex was very, very crowded. I started out well the first day of the meet beating the Pentathlon expert scores from Atlanta, Georgia to become the National Champion in the Pentathlon. I was pretty well wasted by the end of the long day after trying to get through the 1500 meter run (the final Pentathlon event), but, by the next morning I was ready for the Discus and edged out a former Olympian to be the National Champion in the Discus. I got through the preliminaries for the 100 meter dash and qualified for the 100 meter finals for the next day.

The next day my first event was the long jump and on my first jump I tore a right calf muscle, but my jump was long enough to be the National Champion in the long jump. My last event of the day was the javelin and I did well as the muscle tear did not hinder the short run and hop. Twice I come within 2-feet of my still existing "World and National record javelin throw", but just could not do any better.

The next morning my calf muscle was feeling pretty good, but with a high mountain lake fishing trip starting as soon as I returned home and only one month until the blue grouse season, I decided I was not going to take any more chances on being a cripple all fall and scratched out of the 100 meter finals. The javelin competition ended my meet, I received my four National Championship Gold medals and I hobbled back to Boise to mend.

I tried the same training method

(hunting blue grouse every day) for the October Huntsman World Games that I used last year, but this year it let me down.

I spent September hunting blue grouse, which is much more enjoyable than sweating on the track, but for some reason it did not keep me in shape. I started out well winning gold in the long jump and setting a new World Record and then took the gold in the Javelin. The first thing the next morning was the 50 meter and got beat by a Canadian by .01 second which is about the length of a finger nail to take the Silver. Then I was again beaten in the Discus by 2 inches to take another Silver. My Discus event lasted too long and by the time I could get over to the track I had already been disqualified from the 100 meter dash finals. It was a bad day to end the season, but the great fall hunting soon made me forget most of it. I may just fish next summer and give up trying to re-live my long ago childhood days.

## **Retiree Updates!**

**Keith Kiler and Gayle Valentine** have sure been living it up since she retired. Received the following from them while they were on their latest cross-country trip. Dated 10/4/2010: "Greetings from Fort Laramie, Wyoming. We have been here a couple of days, hunting sharptails and doing tourist stuff such as visiting the old fort. Today off to see the wagon train trail and ruts where the pioneers crossed the North Platte, as well as Register Cliff where they signed their names as early as 1847. There have been a lot of highlights but my favorites were fishing the Shoshone River, grouse hunting in the grasslands and the Black Hills (also had some fun fishing there). We have been out 4 weeks now and will spend another 10 days or so before home."

**(Cont. on Page 3, See: Updates)**

## Updates, cont. from Page 2

Dated 10/8/2010: "Greetings from Salt Lake City. We are on the last leg of our trip. Will stay here another day then on to SE Idaho and a few days of sharptail hunting. We plan to be home on the 13th or 14th. The dogs are pretty cranked up just now as they have not hunted for a few days. Steve has two one-year-old labradoodles so Scout has been having a great time. Most likely we will stay at Malad a night then move on to Ririe Reservoir and camp there and hunt at Tex Creek. Best to all, Keith and Gayle"

Well, some of you have again headed south for the winter. **Kent Ball** is one of the regulars who will spend the next few months in Arizona City. Of course, it doesn't help when we are freezing here and they are bragging about the 70 degree weather there. For instance: "It was in the high 70's here all week. Broke three high temp records. Tried to make 80, but ONLY got to 79. Oh well, rained yesterday for the first time in two months. Only in the high 60's today, but still T-shirt weather. Are you enjoying the lovely Idaho winter? Below zero in Salmon this morning." (See what I mean! Ugh! JF) Also, Kent said "**Dave and Betty Ortmann** arrived there on January 13 from California so they could warm up and dry out."

In October, **Milt Williams** had a successful back surgery which helped to clear up other problems. He is doing well although he says "can't do anything with the aging thing, though. Got any ideas?"

An update on Milt and Beverly's son, Geoff, who you all know from past newsletters. Geoff was home through Milt's surgery and recovery, then did some pheasant hunting before he took off for Mexico, then to Bolivia and Peru to do more good work. He still is a one-man operation with his mother

Beverly running his foundation. You have to be so very proud of your son and his dedication for helping others!

I talked with **Anna Marie Halpern** this past October. We hadn't heard from her for some time and her mail was being returned because of an incorrect post office box number. Anna Marie said she has been fighting cancer and had been on chemotherapy for the past two years. We are all in your corner, Anna Marie, and we will keep you in our prayers. If anyone would care to send her some good cheer, her address is: P.O. Box 1885, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815.

Just received news from **Bernice Howell** that Pat Cudmore's mother, Berklee, is in the hospital with a broken hip. She was operated on January 8 and is doing fine. Berklee is now recovering at a rehab hospital in Meridian. Bernice said she is in excellent health and that is all in her favor.

Bernice has known Mrs. Cudmore since they were six years old where they lived one house away from each other in Mountain Home Thanks, Bernice, for the info. And we missed you at the luncheon. We really want to see you!!!

**Gloria and John Elliot** were in Boise this December for medical reasons and to be with their daughter Anna-beth who was to receive her Master of Science Degree in Nursing on December 17. They probably are already in Arizona by now. Also, sorry Gloria and John, about messing up on the years of marriage. I have corrected my calendar and you are now married 54 years on December 28. Congratulations!!!

**Bill Goodnight** had to miss the recent luncheon because he was in Oakland, California spending time with his new granddaughter Grace who is just

four weeks old. Grace is his third grandchild (daughter Jaki) and he has twin granddaughters 2 ½ years old in Columbus, Ohio (daughter Terra). Congrats, Grandpop! *Are you going to teach them to hunt and fish?!*

## Happy Birthdays!

### January

Jack McNeel, January 4  
Clay Cummins, January 6  
Margaret Whipple, January 7  
Grant Christensen, January 18  
Tom Parker, January 21  
Ray Lyon, January 28  
Perry Johnson, January 28  
Martin Luther, January 29

### February

Wes Cannon, February 1  
Dave Ortmann, February 1  
Greg Tourtlotte, February 4  
Jim Nixon, February 6  
Gerald Scholten, February 12  
John Nagel, February 19  
Chuck Jensen, February 20  
Doyle Reynolds, February 25

### March

Terry Holubetz, March 3  
Bruce Penske, March 4  
Jerry Thiessen, March 6  
Ken Norrie, March 9  
Bill Hutchison, March 24  
Cheryl Bridges, March 25  
John Gahl, March 28  
Cathy Kopke, March 28  
Jack Fisher, March 30 (86 years)

## Happy Anniversaries!!

Claude and Marie Clapsaddle  
Married 60 years February 24

Ruby and Tony Tolsma  
Married 41 years March 7

Congratulations to you all!